

**First Lutheran Church
Kirkland, IL**



Salt and Light
Sermon on the Mount
A Lenten Series

First Lutheran Church - Putting Christ First
Kirkland, IL - Est. December 26, 1873

Wednesday, February 21, 2024
Mid-Week Lenten Service

First Lutheran Church – Putting Christ First

Mid-Week Lent 1, February 21, 2024

A WARM WELCOME TO ALL who are worshipping with us today! We hope that the service will be a joy and blessing to you. Please complete the black friendship register and pass it down the pew.

LBW, green hymnal *Please stand as able.

Prelude

Beginning of Service:

P: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

P: You are the salt of the earth.

C: **Our Christianity flavors, enhances and preserves your creation.**

P: You are the light of the world.

C: **Our light sent and sustained by Christ cannot be hidden.**

P: You are the lamp that lights the house.

C: **Our reflection of the light of Jesus drives away darkness.**

P: Do good works that others may see

C: **and give glory to the Father.**

P: You are the salt of the earth and the light of the world.

C: **May we never lose our flavor or dim the light.**

Confession and Absolution

P: We are created by God to be the salt of the earth and the light of the world. Too often we are neither. Forgive us, O Lord.

Pause for silent reflection.

C: **Most merciful God, when we fail to salt the earth with your love, forgive us. When we fail to shine the light of your peace, forgive us. When we place the light of Christ under a basket, forgive us. When we hide Jesus, deny him, or cover up our Christianity, forgive us. We are sinful from birth and sin against you in thought, word and deed. Our neighbors are too often shielded from your light because we are sinners. Forgive us of all of our sins and grant us your mercy.**

P: Jesus is the true salt of the earth and the light of the world from all eternity. For you he hung on the cross on earth's darkest day and rose again from the dead to shine the light of eternity. Therefore, I announce to you that all of your sins are forgiven in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

***Opening Hymn: "Beautiful Savior"**

LBW 518

***Prayer of the Day**

Heavenly Father, Graciously renew my faith; help me bear my crosses, learning humbleness from you, peace amid pain and losses. May I give you love for love! Hear me, O my Savior, That I may in heav'n above sing your praise forever. In the Name of Jesus Christ, Amen.

First Reading

Micah 6:6-8

“With what shall I come before the Lord, and bow myself before God on high? Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old? Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousands of rivers of oil? Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?” He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?

Second Reading

Ephesians 5:1-8

Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God. But sexual immorality and all impurity or covetousness must not even be named among you, as is proper among saints. Let there be no filthiness nor foolish talk nor crude joking, which are out of place, but instead let there be thanksgiving. For you may be sure of this, that everyone who is sexually immoral or impure, or who is covetous (that is, an idolater), has no inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God. Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience. Therefore do not become partners with them; for at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light.

Gospel Reading

Matthew 5:13-16

“You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people’s feet. “You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.

SERMON: “SALT AND LIGHT”

***Hymn of the Day:** “What Wonderful Love Is This”

LBW 385

***Apostles Creed**

P. 85

Offering

Prayers of the Church

P: Lord Jesus, you are the salt of the earth. So flavor this world with your love and forgiveness that presidents, kings and princes would act justly and love mercy and, as a result, see to it that all people would have the opportunity to hear about and experience your grace. In your mercy,

C: make us to be salt and light.

P: Lord Jesus, you are the light of the world. You shine your light through your Church and have called and created us to be living examples and loving people. Forgive us when we fail to shine the light of your love. Then shine your light in us and through us that everyone we meet would see your glory. In your mercy,

C: make us to be salt and light.

P: Lord Jesus, you are the lamp that lights the house. Bring your light into all of our households that mothers, fathers, children and all family members live in love and harmony. Make our homes the places where your salt and light are passed on from one generation to the next. In your mercy,

C: make us to be salt and light.

P: Lord Jesus, you do all things well. When we are ill, you are the one who has the ability to make us well. Lay your healing hand on all who are hospitalized, suffering from chronic illness or nearing the end of earthly life. Make them well in your own way and according to your good pleasure. In your mercy,

C: make us to be salt and light.

P: Into your hands, Lord Jesus, we place all of our needs, knowing that you are the salt of the earth and the light of the world.

C: Amen.

Lord's Prayer

P.97

Benediction

* Closing Hymn "Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing"

LBW 259

*Pastor: Go in Peace, Serve the Lord!

***Congregation: Thanks be to God!**

*The Postlude

Church Office: (815) 522-3886

Pastor: Dr. Tom Thorstad (716) 990-6244(c)

Secretary: Dianna Wittwer (815) 378-6654(c)

Pianist: Jill Vodden

Website: www.kirklandflc.org

pastor@kirklandflc.org

secretary@kirklandflc.org